Reflection 3

Latoya Dawson

CBSE 7201

Professor O’Connor

Doing an action research (AR), I learned that based on how researchers feel, students can

learn. AR can be use by faculty members and professionals inside the classrooms, offices and

libraries as laboratories for the study of learning. The research can be conducted by a single

teacher, by a group of colleagues who share an interest in a common problem, or by the entire

faculty of a school. Whatever the scenario, the action research should consist of a main focus,

clarifying theories, Identifying research questions, collecting data, analyzing data, reporting data,

taking informed action.

The action research process begins with a topic selection. Once the topic is chosen or

clarified the teacher or teachers can began the process. The focus of the research should be

proven to be successful because time is very limited for teachers, with all the work teachers are

faced with inside the classroom itself. That is why it is important for me or another teacher to

select a focus that begins with the teacher researcher or the team of action researchers knowing

what aspect of student learning do they wish to investigate.

Also, I learned that once a focus area has been selected and the researcher's perspectives

and beliefs about that focus have been clarified, the next step is to generate a set of personally

meaningful research questions to guide the inquiry. This way the researcher could stay on track.

In addition, in order for the research to be more effective, action researchers should avoid

relying on any single source of data. Using multiple independent sources of data to answer one's

questions can help a single researcher compare and contrast what is being seen through a variety

of lenses. Also, when more sources are agreeing with the chosen topic or have valid information

to support the AR, the ore effective the AR will appear.

The topic of my research is Role Play for English Language Learners. In this process I

collaborated with peers, students, coworkers, parents, etc. Through active collaboration I

developed new ideas for teaching and research in class. Self-evaluation and self-awareness were

important for my self-improvement. Many ESL learners are arriving here in America not

knowing English and they withdraw in class because they cannot communicate much in the

second language. With role play the attention is taken off of these ELL’s and it helps them open

up more, which then improves their communication in English.

Overall, Action research is a great way to enhance learning because researchers are

finding ways to help students learn more effectively. I am thankful to have the opportunity to

learn how academic research is actually done. In other words, how it is organized, performed,

and presented. This class prepared me to properly perform an AR which will be useful in my

career moving forward.